



Operation Warfighter Initiative

About DIA

Established in 1961, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) is the Nation's preeminent military intelligence organization, a Department of Defense (DoD) combat support agency, and a key member of the United States Intelligence Community. DIA's mission is to provide timely, objective, and cogent military intelligence to the servicemen and women who defend the nation and to the decision makers and policymakers throughout the DoD and U.S. Government. Through its Director, DIA serves as the primary intelligence advisor to the Secretary of Defense and other senior DoD officials. The Director of DIA is also the intelligence staff officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responsible for providing intelligence support for military commands and operations worldwide.

The Operation Warfighter (OWF) Initiative

The Operation Warfighter Initiative was established by the Department of Defense (DoD) in 2006. The Initiative calls on Federal agencies to identify temporary assignments and opportunities for service members convalescing at military medical centers in the National Capital Region. The goal of the Initiative is to match service members with opportunities that utilize both their military and non-military skills, thereby creating productive assignments that are beneficial to both the service member and the employer. Service members on medical hold, even if assigned to the National Guard and/or a Reserve Component unit, are eligible to participate in the Initiative's objectives. DIA does not pay service member's salary, as they are being paid by their respective service.

Duty schedules for OWF participants are dependent on each individual treatment schedule. These are flexible so as not to interfere with the service member's medical treatment or adversely affect their well-being and recuperation. The average length of the temporary assignment is 3-5 months for an average of 20 hours per week.

OWF participants are placed in host offices and assigned a supervisor and a mentor. Based on the participant's interests and the needs of the host office, service members may take training to help enhance their skills and to learn new skills.

There is no promise of employment at the completion of an OWF assignment. However, OWF service members who are released from medical hold status, pending separation from military service are considered potential candidates for full time employment with DIA.

Eligibility Criteria

- U.S. citizenship of the OWF participant and all members of the immediate family. (All applicants conditionally selected for temporary assignments are required to satisfactorily complete a security background investigation, counterintelligence (CI) scope polygraph examination and drug screening.) Security clearances are not granted to participants who are dual citizens or who possess dual citizenship of the US, etc.
- All OWF participants must satisfy DIA's conditions of employment before a final offer is extended.
- OWF participants must be granted TS/SCI security clearances before a final offer is extended.

DIA is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered without regard to non-merit factors, such as race, national origin, color, religion, gender, age, marital status, disability or sexual orientation.

Participation Procedures

- Send a resume and a brief description of the type of temporary assignment you are seeking to: Ginny Cwalina, Virginia.Cwalina@dia.mil.
- For additional information about DIA, please visit the DIA website at <http://www.dia.mil>.

FAQs for Operation Warfighter Interns

Q. Once I have been selected for a temporary OWF assignment, what is the next step?

A. The next step in the process is for your selecting manager to escort you to our military personnel office to start processing your appointment. You will be asked to complete pre-employment documents which include the SF-86 questionnaire for the security background investigation. (Duty uniforms should be worn to the in-processing session.)

Q. How long will it take to get a security clearance?

A. The length of the security clearance process depends on your particular background. In general, if you have significant foreign travel, and/or foreign relatives or contacts, the security clearance process can be rather lengthy.

Q. What is the length of the temporary assignment?

A. The average length of assignments will vary depending on the service member's situation. The average length of assignments is 3 months for up to 20 hours per week.

Q. What is the role of my mentor?

A. Your mentor has volunteered to assist you with in-processing logistics and throughout your assignment. Your mentor is available to orient you to your specific office and the Agency, provide guidance on how to perform your specific work duties and generally be available to answer questions you may have.

Q. Does DIA make offers of permanent employment at the conclusion of the assignment?

A. There is no promise of employment at the completion of an OWF assignment. However, OWF service members who are released from medical hold status, pending separation from military service are considered potential candidates for full time employment with DIA.

Q. Who is responsible for providing transportation?

A. The DoD OWF Initiative is responsible for providing transportation to and from the temporary assignment site, at no cost to the member. Transportation arrangements should be made through Patrick Brick, the OWF Program Manager and through the DIA Program Manager, Ginny Cwalina at least one full week prior to the start date.